

What is claimed is:

1. A frame for a participant to communicate expressive information with other participants in a meeting, the frame comprising:

a personal information section, wherein the personal information section contains a name of the participant;

one or more icons, indicating inputs and reactions of the participant related to a subject matter or other aspects of the meeting, wherein the inputs include pictorial and textual inputs; and

one or more annotation banners containing comments or questions of the participant,

wherein the frame containing the expressive information is transmitted to the other participants through a computer network system to advance communication for the meeting.

2. The frame of claim 1, wherein the frame singularly represents multiple participants at one of multiple sites.

3. The frame of claim 1, wherein the personal information section contains a still or video picture of the participant.

4. The frame of claim 1, wherein the inputs further include audible input.

5. The frame of claim 1, further comprising a callout box for status comments.

6. The frame of claim 1, wherein the one or more icons have a default fade rate.

7. The frame of claim 1, wherein the frame is color coded, and wherein different color represents different expressive information.

8. The frame of claim 1, wherein the frame and lines around the frame change in size, shape, color, and style to convey the expressive information.

9. The frame of claim 1, wherein the frame assigns specific meanings to various locations of the frame.

10. The frame of claim 1, further comprising predefined standard annotations that can be selected from a menu, wherein the predefined standard annotations are configurable.

11. A computer network system for communicating expressive information for meetings, the computer network system comprising:

a plurality of computers that include display devices and audio output devices;

a plurality of frames positioned on the display devices, wherein each frame comprises:

a personal information section, wherein the personal information section contains a name of a participant;

one or more icons, indicating inputs or reactions of the participant related to a subject matter or other aspects of the meeting, wherein the inputs include pictorial and textual input; and

one or more annotation banners containing comments or questions of the participant; and

a network that transmits the plurality of frames, whereby multiple participants can communicate the expressive information through the plurality of frames.

5 12. The computer network system of claim 11, wherein the inputs further include audible input.

13. The computer network system of claim 11, wherein the icon indicating reactions of the participant has a default fade rate.

10 14. The computer network system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of frames are color coded, and wherein different color represents different expressive information.

15. The computer network system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of frames and lines around the frames change in size, shape, color, and style to convey expression.

16. The computer network system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of the frames are listed on the display devices and can be selectively enlarged.

15 17. The computer network system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of frames can be personalized by the multiple participants.

18. The computer network system of claim 11, further comprising predefined standard annotations that can be selected from a menu, wherein the predefined standard annotations are configurable.

20 19. A computer readable medium providing instruction for communicating expressive information for meetings, the instructions comprising:

communicating personal information that includes names of the multiple participants through frames;

25 communicating inputs and reactions of the multiple participants to a subject matter and other aspects of the meeting through the frames;

communicating comments or questions of the multiple participants in one or more annotation banners through the frames; and

communicating miscellaneous input from the multiple participants through the frames.

30 20. The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising instructions for communicating personal information that includes still or video pictures of the multiple participants through the frames.